(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that SIM cards for pre-paid customers are not available in Karnataka for the last three-four months;

(c) the steps taken to supply pre-paid SIM cards to mobile phone users in the State;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the BSNL's mobile phone services in Karnataka; and

(e) how many base stations are proposed to be set up in this regard in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 1,83,000 pre-paid and 90,000 post-paid subscribers are using Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's Mobile Service in Karnataka.

(b) Due to capacity constraints in Karnataka, the distribution of pre-paid SIM cards has been temporarily suspended.

(c) and (d) The pre-paid cards are being made available wherever capacities exists and procurement action taken for expanding the services in the State by additional 2.75 lac lines.

(e) Sixty more Base stations are presently under installation in Bangalore city in Karnataka State.

Penalty Clause in Telecom Licences

1937. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of penalty clauses with respect to telecom licences to make them more stringent and to make the companies comply with them;

(b) the number of Village Public Telephones installed by private people in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the number of Public Telephones installed by MTNL/BSNL in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Village Public Telephones installed by private people is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The details of number of Public Telephones as provided by BSNL and MTNL are given in Statement-II and Statement-III respectively.

Statement-I

VPTs Installed by Private Basic Service Operators

Sl. No.	State/Service Area	Cumulative Number of VPTs installed by Pvt. Basic Service Operators*		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	107	1314
2	Gujarat	Nil	2	3939
3	Madhya Pradesh	348	348	348
4	Maharashtra	Nil	160	2019
5	Punjab	Nil	20	831**
6	Rajasthan	169	209	1016

*Figures are as reported by the Six Private Basic Service Operators in their respective service areas.

**Replacement of VPT based on Multi Access Radio Relay System.

Statement- II

Public Telephones Provided by BSNL

Sl. No.	State	No. of PCOs provided by BSNL		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	Andaman and Nicobar	92	204	193
2	Andhra Pradesh	24401	20446	35037
3	Assam	2412	2157	3274
4	Bihar	9924	11973	14773
5	Gujarat	6804	10256	23789
6	Haryana	4535	4240	5533
7	Himachal Pradesh	1919	875	378
8	Jammu and Kashmir	2630	2334	3695
9	Karnataka	12770	13912	39329
10	Kerala	9863	10656	11224
11	Madhya Pradesh	3156	3935	9703
12	Maharashtra	26352	31041	52571
13	North East	1173	416	589
14	Orissa	5587	3745	4386
15	Punjab	5402	1878	3523
16	Rajasthan	7294	6836	9677
17	Tamil Nadu	31546	29634	34412
18	Uttar Pradesh (East)	10020	9119	11670
19	Uttar Pradesh (West)	12763	7863	9215
20	West Bengal	7128	15450	18994
	TOTAL	185771	186970	291965

Figures as reported by BSNL.

Statement-III

Public Telephones Provided by MTNL

Sl. No.	State	No. of PCOs provided by MTNL		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	Delhi	5935	7728	19230
2	Mumbai	19421	19470	23973

Figures as reported by MTNL.

Upgradation of posts in BSNL

1938. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a BSNL order dated the 24th June, 2003, envisages upgradation of posts from SAG to HAG in all services/cadres under BSNL in order to remove stagnation and frustration;

(b) if so, the maximum length of stagnation period suffered in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) by any officer in BSNL and the details thereof, service-wise;

(c) whether there are any obstacles for implementation of such order and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the upgradation would result in promotions to officers in BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited order No. 4-13/2001-TE.I dated the 24th June, 2003 envisages creation of Principle General Manager level posts in the pay scale of Rs. 22400-24500 (CDA) in various services/cadres under Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, keeping in view the work justification and associated aspects.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. Holding of Departmental Promotion Committee meeting for regular promotion in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is not within the purview of Union Public Service Commission.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.